



5. (ONCE AMENDED) An abnormality detection device for detecting an abnormality in a communication bus, the device comprising:

 at least two timer counters each measuring a time during which a signal transmitted through said communication bus continues to be a first logical level;
a register cumulatively adding the time measured by at least one of said at least two timer counters, the register being initialized at predetermined intervals; and
a comparator comparing the time cumulatively added by said register with a threshold value and outputting an abnormality detection signal indicating an abnormality in said communication bus when the cumulative time obtained by said register surpasses said threshold value.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) A microcomputer connected to a communication bus, the microcomputer comprising:

 a timer counter measuring a time during which a signal transmitted through said communication bus continues to be a first logical level; and
a comparator comparing the time measured by said timer counter with a threshold value and outputting an abnormality detection signal indicating an abnormality in said communication bus when the time surpasses said threshold value.

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5, and 7 are amended to improve clarity. Claims 1-5 and 7 stand rejected and claim 6 stands objected.

Claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,736,366 to Rickard ("Rickard"). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and